

NEWS ADVISORY
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ISTOOK SCORES GETS HIGH MARKS FOR VOTING RECORD

Congressman Ernest Istook (R-5th District) has received high marks from a watchdog group which tracks Congress' voting record on deficit reduction. Another group lauded him for his voting record on issues relating to small business.

The Concord Coalition, a non-partisan organization which maintains a Deficit Reduction Scorecard, put Istook on its "Honor Roll," with a 97% rating. Istook ranks among the top ten Members of Congress and is the top rated freshman. The group calculated its findings on 14 votes in the House of Representatives. These included a variety of budget-related issues.

The Concord Coalition is headed by former U.S. Senators Paul Tsongas (D-MA) and Warren Rudman (R-NH). It is dedicated to eliminating the federal budget deficit by the year 2000.

Another group, the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), gave Istook a 100% voting record on issues important to small business. NFIB represents 600,000 small businesses in the United States. It based it's rating on eight votes, including deficit reduction, family and medical leave and property rights.